

Appl. No. 10/004,834
Amdt. dated January 19, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 18, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1) Summary of Prosecution

Claims 29 to 76 are pending in the application. Claims 29-46, 48-59, and 65-75 have been provisionally withdrawn. Claims 47 and 76 are allowed; claims 60 and 62-64 are rejected; and claim 61 is objected to. New claim 77 has been added.

2) Amendments to the Specification

In the specification, the first paragraph of page 1 is amended to indicate that the present application is a continuation of Patent Co-operation Treaty application number PCT/CA 00/00681 (the "681 application"). Both the present application and the '681 application have the same disclosure, and no new matter has been added to the present application.

Please update the Patent Office records to indicate that the present application is a continuation application and not a continuation-in-part application.

3) Obviousness - 35 USC 103 - (Claims 60, 62 and 64)

The Examiner rejected claims 60, 62, and 64 based on 35 USC 103.

As shown in the enclosed claim set, claim 60 is rewritten to incorporate the limitations of claim 61, as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 61 is hereby cancelled. Since independent claim 60 is now in allowable form, all claims dependent thereon, namely claims 62-64, are also allowable.

4) New Claim 77

In the claims, new independent claim 77 is inserted to provide the applicant with a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. New claim 77 is essentially a combination of claims 60 and 61 without the resilient layer. It is respectfully submitted that the resilient layer is not essential for patentability for this claim.

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5) Closing Remarks

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKE, CASSELS & GRAYDON LLP

By Brian W. Gray
Brian W. Gray (Reg. No. 30,017)
Tel.: (416) 863-3256

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